

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 42/Number 4 December 2009



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

We have arrived at the 50th Holiday Season of the Village's incorporation in 1959. Most of us were not around back then but my guess is that there are some who were here or who are related to those responsible for the establishment of our wonderful community. As we prepare to celebrate this coming Christmas and New Year, let us be thankful for the vision of our "founding fathers" and resolve again to continue the good works they envisioned and began back then. One year ago, our Nation's economy and the financial markets had soured but we had elected a new president and hoped that matters would improve. Today, we have reason to believe that things are turning around although perhaps not as quickly as we would like. On the local level, our Village continues to move forward and deal with the issues facing us. Fortunately, despite the hints of gloom around us, we have reason to rejoice and be thankful at the Village level and in our personal lives.

I am grateful to those of you who shared your concerns with me or voiced your thanks during the past year. All input submitted in the spirit of cooperation is appreciated and respected. We are all grateful for the efforts of our Village team, including **Trustees Debbie Anselmo, Brian Bailey, Anne Bermier, Carol Coleman, Norm Schnauffer, and Matt Walsh; Village Clerk Joe Consolo; Village Attorney Rich Ramello of Storino, Ramello & Durkin; Village Prosecutor Tom Brescia; Treasurer Steve Busa; Village Engineer Dave Vanderveelde of Christopher E. Burke Engineering** and the employees in our **Police, Administrative and Public Works** departments. Together, we work diligently together to keep our Village progressing. I personally appreciate the efforts of our Village volunteers who work in various capacities doing things for all of us. These include our volunteers who serve on the **Planning and Zoning Commission, Police & Fire Board**, and the **Heritage Center docents**. As I have said before, but worth repeating, all who serve in some capacity on the various associations and boards throughout the Village or on behalf of the Village all help make our town better. We thank all of you! Now, let me share some things with you concerning the achievements of the past year.

As mentioned above, we celebrated our Village's 50th anniversary of incorporation with food, fun, and festivities this

past August. We were able to re-finance our Village debt. By replacing two series of debt certificates with a new 2009 certificate, we were able to reduce the projected deficit this year by over \$40,000. Moreover, we borrowed some new money which was used to repave the parking lot at the Village hall and cap one of the old municipal wells to meet Illinois EPA requirements. We successfully pursued funding from the American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act (stimulus funds) to repave Blackhawk Trail. The projected final cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$360,000 at a cost to us of a little over \$10,000. The use of these stimulus funds were an obvious and significant savings for the Village. Last year at this time, I wrote about our intentions to improve the Heritage Center but those plans were on hold pending distribution of funds from the park bond referendum by the Lyons Township Board. To that end, Dave Gotham (from our Village Engineering firm) and I made a solid presentation to the Lyons Twp. Board at the end of September concerning our request for a portion of those funds for improvements at Blackhawk Park, Arrowhead Memorial Pointe, and the Heritage Center/Library. The Township Board plans to begin awarding these funds at their meeting in February, 2010. Although these accomplishments should be a source of pride for all of us, we must remember that the Village still needs to address the impact of our State's budgetary issues and the Nation's sour economy on our local revenues. We will have some difficult decisions to make in the coming year but I firmly believe that we are up to the challenge.

Finally, our Village Attorneys have again made a contribution on our behalf to the **"Make-A-Wish" Foundation of America**. As you may know, the **Make-A-Wish Foundation** helps grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich their human experience with hope, strength and joy. We are grateful to our Village Attorneys for this donation on our behalf! Thank You!!

Likewise, I ask that you remember those who are needy or in poor health and help in any way you can. Also, please remember our men and women in uniform who will be away from home this Christmas. We ask for their protection and that they be returned home safely to us before the New Year is out!

continued on page 2

Message continued

In closing, as we enjoy our 50th Holiday Season as a village, on behalf of the VBT and the Village staff, I want to wish each of you a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy New Year!** May Peace and Joy be yours this Holiday Season! And, remember that

"Peace on earth will come to stay, when we live Christmas every day."

~ Helen Steiner Rice (1900–1981), American writer.

Happy Holidays!!

Richard S. Andrews, Mayor

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:

Thursday, January 14, 2010

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:

Thursday, January 7, 2010

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at 201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

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For Sale. . . . 1996 BMW 328IC, 60,000 original miles, black/beige. Asking \$8,600. Call (708) 510-5546.

For Sale. . . . Singer sewing machine \$45, Simplicity Serger \$45, Ladies Skis, Boots & Poles \$150, oriental rugs. All in excellent condition. Call Jean (708) 246-6635.

Smoke Signals

Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach
(708) 246-7099, extension 101
kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Volume 42, Number 4

Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is January 15, 2010.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

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Office Hours

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Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and Holidays

Mayor: Richard S. Andrews

Trustees:	Deborah A. Anselmo	Carol Coleman
	Brian T. Bailey	Norman L. Schnauffer
	Anne Bermier	Matthew P. Walsh II

Village Clerk: Joseph V. Consolo

**Chief of Police/
Administrator:** Frank Alonzo, Jr.

Police Dept.	Non-Emergency	246-4534
	Emergency	9-1-1

Fire Dept.	Non-Emergency	352-9229
	Emergency	9-1-1

The advertisements and notices of privately sponsored events or activities contained in *Smoke Signals* are provided for informational purposes only, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the Village of Indian Head Park, its officials or employees. The inclusion of a product advertisement or notice of a privately sponsored event or activity herein should not be construed as an endorsement by the Village of that product, event or activity.

Census Counts

The Village, like many other communities in the area, has formed a Complete Count Committee designed specifically to get the word out about the importance of participating in the 2010 census. The information gathered by the U.S. Census Bureau is critically important to all communities because portions of state shared revenues are dependent on population statistics. Also, grant money coming back to communities at the local level is sometimes based on community census information. Every year, the federal government can allocate more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, job training and senior centers. With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's census questionnaire responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. Your participation in the U.S. Census in 2010 is important to the Village of Indian Head Park and can make a difference in revenues coming into the Village. Key Census 2010 dates: February to March 2010 census questionnaires will be mailed and delivered to households, March to April 2010, census questionnaires will be available at selected public sites for those that did not receive one by mail, April 1, 2010 is Census Day, May to July 2010, census takers will visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail, December 31, 2010, by law the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President, March 2011, by law the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.


Advertisements



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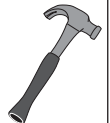


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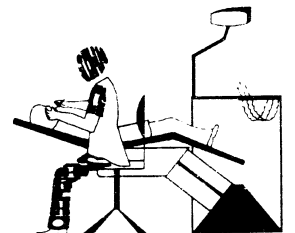
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Students in the News

Congratulations to the following students from Indian Head Park on their academic achievements!

Fenwick High School

The following students attending Fenwick High School were named to the honor roll: William Bailey, Thaddeus Rogozinski, Rocco Stefanini and Matthew Janowiak.

Pleasantdale Middle School

Nicholas Piento, Cooper Hardy, Nicole Lata, Alexis Gutierrez, Guinevere Nueva Espana, Alexandra Christos, Mae Sophie.

Nazareth Academy

Rourke McCollom, Joseph Pellegrino, Colleen McCollom, Clare Bohns, Nicole Yu.

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From the Illinois Attorney General "Consumer Fraud"

SCAMS

TELEMARKETING



HOME REPAIR



CHARITIES



HEALTH CARE



SWEEPSTAKES



WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- You receive an unsolicited call from someone you don't know.
- Telemarketer offers you a "great" deal or a "free" prize.
- Solicitor offers you a travel package, get-rich-quick scheme with no risk, recovery of previously scammed money, or a change of your long distance phone carrier.
- Telemarketer asks you to make a decision and send money quickly, giving you no time to check out their business or their offer.
- Door-to-door salespersons with no local connections offer to do home repair work for much less than the market price.
- You receive solicitations for repair work from a company that provides only a telephone number or post office box number to contact.
- Salesperson or contractor offers to inspect your home for free.
- Contractor asks you to sign a contract that still has blank spaces.
- You get solicitations from a phony charity with a name that sounds like a better-known, reputable organization.
- Fund-raisers enclose "gifts" in mailing to persuade you to donate.
- You get solicitations from paid fund-raisers who may receive a percentage of your contribution as a fee.
- You receive solicitations from charities with unfamiliar names and no programs in Illinois.

- Promoter markets a health care product as a quick, effective cure-all that remedies many diverse ailments.
- Health product is advertised with impressive, but undocumented, case histories.
- Promotions are written in medical jargon that you don't understand to hide the deficiencies of their claims.
- Health clinic requires you to travel and stay far from home during treatment.
- Magazine sellers or clearinghouses offer you prizes to get you to make purchases.
- Promoters offer you "valuable" prizes or awards in return for purchasing "less expensive" merchandise.
- Promoters contact you by phone or mail to let you know that it is easy to enter and no purchase is necessary.

BEWARE IF...

- You won a "free" gift, vacation, or prize but must pay for postage and handling or other charges.
- You must send money, give a credit card or bank account number, or have a check picked up by courier before you've had a chance to carefully consider the offer.
- Telemarketer makes statements such as "Don't miss this high-profit, no-risk offer!"
- Contractor demands cash payment or full payment before work is completed.
- Contractor requests that you make a check payable to a person other than the owner or company name.
- Contractor refuses to provide references or proof of insurance when requested.
- Contractor offers "discount" prices that seem too good to be true.
- Solicitor cannot or will not answer basic questions about the charity.
- Solicitor uses high-pressure tactics to obtain a donation.
- Solicitor insists on the payment by cash rather than check.
- Solicitor insists on sending someone to pick up your donation rather than letting you mail it.

- Health product is advertised as being a scientific breakthrough, miraculous cure, exclusive product, ancient remedy or as containing a secret ingredient.
- Promoter claims there is a conspiracy to suppress the product.
- Up-front payment is required.
- You are promised a no-risk, money-back guarantee.
- Promoters make statements similar to the following: "You may be our next ten million dollar winner—just enter our sweepstakes!"
- Promoters give you the idea that you will get closer to winning the grand prize if you purchase more of their products.
- After entering sweepstakes, you are billed for magazines or products you never ordered.
- Promoters tell you that you won't be on the list for future sweepstakes if you don't order soon.

WHAT TO DO

- Reduce the number of telemarketing calls you receive by signing up for the national Do Not Call Registry:
 - Log on to www.donotcall.gov or Phone 1-888-382-1222; TTY: 1-866-290-4236.
- Hang up the phone if you're not interested.
- Ask the telemarketer to send written information.
- Contact the Office of the Attorney General to report a scam, a potential Do Not Call Registry violation or for more information.
- Do not open your door to contractors or salespeople unless you initiated the call.
- Get at least three written estimates. Check the contractor's background, references, and prior work.
- Never sign a contract you do not understand or with blank spaces.
- Report a scam to the Office of the Attorney General.
- Contact the Office of the Attorney General, Better Business Bureau, or your local Chamber of Commerce for information.
- Find out if the charity is registered with the Office of the Attorney General by calling (312) 814-2595.
- Ask for the charity's length of operation, exact name, and addresses of local and national offices.
- Ask what percentage of the money raised by the charity actually goes to the cause, and request a current financial statement.
- If you feel a solicitation is suspicious, do not donate money and report it to the Office of the Attorney General.
- Ask a pharmacist, doctor, or health professional about the product or service before purchasing or using it.
- Contact the Office of the Attorney General Health Care Bureau at 877-303-5145 (TTY: 800-964-3013) for more information or to report a scam.
- Ask specific questions about the odds of winning.
- If you participate in sweepstakes, keep your records and don't let promoters intimidate you into making a purchase.
- Remember: the law requires that you have an equal chance of winning, even if you do not make any purchases.
- Contact the Consumer Fraud Bureau of the Office of the Attorney General for help or additional information.



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